

or green, while the prothorax is like burnished copper. I submitted a series for examination to Mr. Lea, who wrote in reply:—"I have always found the identification of *Saprin* difficult and unsatisfactory, and believe that confusion is almost general. Size and shades of colour seem to go for nothing in the genus. *S. cyaneus* may be distinguished from *australasia* as follows:—(1) *S. cyaneus*, Fab., as identified by Lewis (the world's authority on Histeridæ), has a short curved line of punctures, sometimes looking like a feeble stria, at the base of elytra, near suture, punctures leaving a polished space to beyond first stria. (2) *S. australasiæ*, Blackb.—Without the little curved line of punctures of *cyaneus*, and with elytral punctures advanced beyond base of first stria."

1708. *S. (Gnathoncus) rupicola*, Mars.

A small black species with numerous punctures on the prothorax, which renders it one of the few distinct species.

Hypocaccus sinæ, Mars.

Specimens in my collection differ slightly from the type in having the apparently impunctate space on the prothorax with minute punctures, whereas on the type there are none.

PHALACRIDÆ.

7892. *Phalacrinus australis*, Blackb.

7896. *P. rotundus*, Blackb.

These are small, oval, convex beetles, of a brownish tint. They are found under dry leaves, sometimes in considerable numbers.

AN ADDITION TO THE VICTORIAN FRESH-WATER COPEPODA. (With Plate.)

BY J. SEARLE.

(Read before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 8th Dec., 1913.)

THE species of *Boeckella* here described was first taken at Alphington on 16th October, 1912, at an excursion of the Field Naturalists' Club. Since then it has been found in several places around Melbourne, and has been recorded in reports of Club excursions and elsewhere under the name of *Boeckella asymmetrica*, though not previously described as such. On our last pond-life excursion to Alphington, on 18th October, it was present in great numbers in the ponds on either side of the Yarra, near the Outer Circle railway bridge.

The species resembling it most are *B. minuta* and *B. tenera*, G. O. Sars., but it differs from each of these in size, in the shape of the inner lobes of the lateral expansions on the last thoracic segment, and of the genital segment of the female, and in the

shape of the fifth thoracic legs of the male. It is the smallest species but one of *Boeckella*, exceeding *B. minuta* in length by .15 mm. only.

In quite a number of specimens of this new species taken recently the females were attacked with a parasitic growth attached to the abdomen, forming a globular mass resembling an enormous egg-sac. This in no way impeded their movements, nor did it seem to affect their vitality. Specimens so afflicted, as well as normal individuals, are exhibited under the microscope this evening.

BOECKELLA ASYMMETRICA, J. Searle, n. sp.

Specific Characters.—Body of female oblong-ovate in form, broadest at the first thoracic segment and tapering anteriorly. Head as long as the three succeeding segments; fifth thoracic segment bearing narrow lateral projections, slightly divergent and extending as far as the end of the genital segment. Subdorsal projections asymmetrical, that on the left side triangular with the point slightly hooked inwards, while that on the right is much smaller and simply rounded off. Genital segment of abdomen asymmetrical, nearly straight on the left side, bulging at the upper part on the right and protuberant on the ventral side. Caudal furca almost as long as the abdomen. First antenna 25 joints, when reflexed reaching beyond the caudal furca; second antenna, maxilla, maxillipedes resembling those of most *Boeckella*. Fifth pair of legs in female of typical shape. Egg-sac with 8 to 12 eggs.

The male is much smaller than the female. First antenna geniculated on the right side, and bearing many *asthetasks*; fifth thoracic segment ending in small triangular projections. The fifth pair of legs in male most resemble those of *B. minuta*. The left leg has the triangular lamella on the inside of the second basal joint, but it is broader and longer than in *B. minuta*, and the inner ramus is altogether wanting. The right leg is very similar to that of *B. minuta*, the spine on the second joint being twice as long as that on the first, and the greatly curved apical claw being longer than the ramus itself; the inner ramus sub-cylindrical, and differing very slightly from *B. minuta*.

Length of male, .75 mm.; of female, 1.45 mm.

Occurrence.—In most of the pools in the Yarra valley, near Melbourne.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

Fig. 1.—*Boeckella asymmetrica*, female, x 60 (about).

Fig. 2.—Fourth and fifth thoracic segments and abdomen of female from right side.

Fig. 3.—*B. asymmetrica*, male, x 60 (about).

Fig. 4.—Fifth thoracic feet of male.